

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

5897 '99 JUL -1 11:00
Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

I am in favor of LABELING irradiated food.

To Whom It May Concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods. In its initial petition on the issue of labeling, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed. The material fact remains; therefore, labeling should remain. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities and nutrients are affected. Some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated foods. Most fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. Consumers have a right to know if this process has been used on their food. The label contains important information regarding the processing of the contents.

As to the kind of label used, I believe that the label should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package. For displayed whole foods such as produce, meats, and bulk spices, a prominent informational display should be used, containing the term "irradiation" and the radura. Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire. PERIOD!! *

Sincerely,

David Mac Candlish

Name

Address

222 East Union Street

Kingston, New York 12401

98N 1038

Date: JUNE 27, 1999

THIS PAPER (ABOVE), MAY BE A
"FORM LETTER" - BUT WE AGREE WITH
EVERY WORD WRITTEN HERE WITH!!!
THANK YOU

C3120

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